[*English*]

Advance Licensing Scheme

4788. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have reviewed the advance licensing scheme;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to overhaul the advance licensing system to give a fillip to exports;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Public Notices No. 191-ITC(PN)/90-93 dated 14.8.91, No. 206-ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 11.9.91, No. 227-ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 1/10/91, No. 228-ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 4/10/91, No. 229/ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 7/10/91, No. 241-ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 4/11/91, No. 244-ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 18/11/91, 249-ITC(PN)/90-93 dt. 28/11/91; and No. 253-ITC(PN)/90-93 dated 6-12-91 regarding the revised scheme have been issued copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. However, the review of the Import & Export Policy and Procedure is a continuous process. Further, amendments as and when considered necessary in public interest are notified from time to time.

UNDP Assistance for Growth of Leather Sector

4789. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNDP propose to provide financial assistance for integrated growth of the leather sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance out of it propose to be provided to the leather sector in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether provision of effluent treatment plant is also proposed to be included in the integrated growth of leather sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have proposed to provide financial assistance to the extent of US$ 15,050,000/- to facilitate the overall integrated growth of the leather sector in the country. The main objective of the Programme are human resources development, development of footwear sector, strengthening R&D capacity to facilitate product and technology development, improve support services, implement a strategy for pollution control, enhance exports and introduce systems of effective coordination. UNDP assistance will facilitate development of a comprehensive plan for the sector which will include strategies for reaching various target groups, including women, for development of the various segments of the sector including enhancement of the role of the private sector. The Programme does not envisage State-wise allocation of funds.

Out of the total UNDP assistance, an amount of US$ 1,600,000/- is for evolving a strategy for controlling pollution by identifying an appropriate technology depending on the process in use, the composition and quantity of effluents generated and the standards of treatment to be achieved before discharge.